

might eliminate it and still maintain the central thrust of the legislation; and that is that there ought to be some standards and goals, but to let the States establish their own standards and goals.

This program, Goals 2000, was very carefully crafted after a 1983 report by then-Secretary of Education Terrell Bell, a very conservative educator, who found something we all know: That the American educational system is in a state of disarray.

Some schools are very good, like the high school I went to in Russell, KS, with 400 people, small classes, a good debating team, and a first-rate education. Notwithstanding other distinguished universities which I have attended—the University of Oklahoma, the University of Pennsylvania, Yale Law School—I think my best educational days were in high school, which underscores, at least in my view, that some schools are very good. It also emphasizes the importance of elementary school.

But educational standards across the country are in a state of disrepair. Remedial action is necessary. Some of the items coming out of our subcommittee involve experimentation with privatization to take over the public school system, not competing with private school systems, but trying to eliminate the bureaucracies in schools in cities like Washington, DC, or in Baltimore, MD, Boston, MA, Hartford, CT, some schools in Florida.

I am not saying that privatization is the answer, or the charter school concept, which is also a program contained in the bill coming out of my subcommittee. But I think it is clear that the basic concept of goals is a valid one; that there ought to be a measurement, illustratively into the 4th year, at the end of the 8th year, at the end of the 12th year, but they do not have to be necessarily Federal standards.

I compliment a distinguished legislator in the State of New Hampshire, the Honorable Neals Larson, who is the chairman of the house of representatives education committee. Representative Larson is trying very, very hard to see to it that New Hampshire would accept funding under Goals 2000 in its current form.

Candidly, I agree with Representative Larson that there are no strings attached which are intrusive and that, if you take a look at other Federal funding for the disadvantaged, for school to work, that it is not unusual to have some articulation of standards. But notwithstanding all of that, let us see if we cannot move ahead and find a way to accommodate those who may have a contrary view.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under a previous order, time is limited to 5 minutes and time has expired.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be permitted to proceed for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair. Mr. President, stated very briefly, and the statement which was submitted yesterday will amplify these comments, this legislation will eliminate the requirement that the Secretary of Education approve and review State plans. Secretary Riley has been very accommodating and cooperative. He has expressed some concerns about this legislation. There may be others who will have concerns, others who were involved in the original Goals 2000 legislation, and we will make an effort to work with them on those concerns.

As a result of a public meeting which I participated in at Nashua High School back on September 9, an interesting thought was advanced, and that is to have funds go directly to local school boards for those States which decline to accept Goals 2000 funds.

Mr. Ovide Lamontagne, the chairman of the New Hampshire State Board of Education, thought that was an idea which would be acceptable. I am not suggesting that he made a final commitment to it, but at least from his point of view, it had merit subject to the power of the State to intervene if something extraordinary was done which was contrary to the State's views.

So, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to take a look at the legislation as a way to amend Goals 2000, as a way of seeking an adjustment and accommodation with the House on the appropriations process and encouraging States which are not now entering into compliance with the ultimate view that we have to better the education of school children in America.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 143, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 143) to consolidate Federal employment training programs and create a new process and structure for funding the programs, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Kassebaum amendment No. 2885, in the nature of a substitute.

Ashcroft amendment No. 2893 (to amendment No. 2885), to establish a requirement that individuals submit to drug tests, and to ensure that applicants and participants make full use of benefits extended through work force employment activities.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending Ashcroft amendment be set aside for the consideration of the amendment being offered by Senator SPECTER and Senator SIMON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2894 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2885 (Purpose: To maintain a national Job Corps Program, carried out in partnership with States and communities)

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER], for himself, Mr. SIMON, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. JOHNSTON, proposes an amendment numbered 2894 to amendment No. 2885.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under Amendments Submitted.)

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, in the interest of time—and I understand my distinguished cosponsor, Senator SIMON, will be arriving in the Chamber shortly—I will proceed with some of the opening considerations.

This is a carefully crafted amendment which builds upon the work of the distinguished chairman of the committee, Senator KASSEBAUM. It is responsive to concerns raised by the General Accounting Office to maintain the Job Corps Program in its current structural form with reforms addressing many of the needs identified by Senator KASSEBAUM and the GAO report.

In my capacity as chairman of the appropriations subcommittee which has the responsibility for funding Job Corps, I have been intimately familiar with the operation of Job Corps. During the 15 years that I have been in the U.S. Senate, I have been an advocate for its implementation and have worked to secure funding of almost \$1.1 billion for the program.

It is my view, after seeing the application of the Job Corps in my home State of Pennsylvania and in other States, after working assiduously with my former colleague, Senator Heinz, for the opening of a major Job Corps center in Pittsburgh and having seen the successful implementation of the other three Job Corps centers in Pennsylvania, that the current requirements operating as a Federal program ought to be maintained.

I appreciate the general concept of block grants, but it is a concern of